



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary

October 27, 2015 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

Update on Implementation of Executive Order 562, To Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burden

Nancy Seidman from MassDEP gave an update on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) implementation of Executive Order 562, which asks executive agencies to review all regulations and make recommendations about which could be sunset or streamlined. MassDEP has held three listening sessions on potential regulation amendments and recessions, and has recommended 18 regulatory packages. The only changes related to solid waste and recycling are the proposed rescissions of three grant programs that are no longer active and have been replaced by MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. The deadline the Governor's office has set for these changes is March 2016. MassDEP has established a web page with more information, including the Executive Order, listening session summaries, proposed changes and more information, available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/service/massdep-regulatory-evaluation-for-executive-order-562.html>. MassDEP also has set up an email address for comments and questions at DEP.Talks@state.ma.us.

Update on Interim Reclamation Soils Policy

Sarah Weinstein from MassDEP provided an update on MassDEP's Interim Policy on the Re-use of Soil for Large Reclamation Projects (Policy # COMM-15-01. MassDEP developed this policy as directed by a fiscal year 2015 budget amendment, Section 277 of the Chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014. The policy explains how MassDEP will approach the use of soil for reclamation of a quarry, sand pit, or gravel pit. The policy is available on the MassDEP web site at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/cleanup/laws/massdep-policy-comm-15-01-2015-08-28.pdf>

MassDEP developed the policy based on extensive stakeholder discussions and input. MassDEP established a blog for that process which is available at: <https://reclamationsoil.wordpress.com/>.

Massachusetts Statewide Recycling Participation 2015 Survey Results, John Cole, Isurus

Brooke Nash of MassDEP provided an introduction to MassDEP's 2015 Statewide Recycling Participation Survey. This survey of Massachusetts residents was recently completed by Isurus Market Research under contract to MassDEP. This was the fourth such survey that MassDEP has contracted for, with previous surveys completed in 1996, 2000, and 2005. This survey addressed new issues such as single-stream recycling. MassDEP will use the survey results to inform the development of recycling education and outreach strategies.

John Cole from Isurus presented the summary survey findings. This full presentation is posted on the MassDEP web page along with this meeting summary. Attendees raised a number of questions on the study results, which are summarized below:

Q: Did the survey include questions about the bottle deposit law?

A: No, the survey did not include specific questions on recycling of containers covered under the Massachusetts Bottle Deposit Law.

Q: How many were called to obtain the survey results?

A: Isurus called approximately 20,000 people to obtain approximately 600 responses.

Q: Is there any bias from those who agreed to respond?

A: The responses were obtained from representative groups across different parameters, so Isurus believes they are generally representative of the surveyed population. Generally speaking there tends to be some overstatement of responses perceived to be positive. However, because of the prior surveys, it is possible to consistently compare responses over time.

Q: Did the study cover recycling away from home or food waste composting:

A: Aside from several questions on home composting, these topics were not covered, as the survey length would have become prohibitive.

Q: Did the survey results show why recycling is considered a social good?

A: The survey questions did not focus specifically on why recycling is considered to be good. However the survey responses show that the percent of people responding that they recycle because it is a social good has dropped. This appears to be due to the fact that recycling has become a more mainstream behavior that more people just do automatically.

Q: Why did the survey exclude people who don't have convenient recycling access (e.g., apartment residents)?

A: In this survey, we wanted to focus on attitudes and behaviors of people who have convenient access to recycling in order to learn what they know and don't know about recycling. The issue of lack of access is a different one that involves different barriers and behaviors.

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts Fiscal Year 2015 Program Results and Fiscal Year 2016 Program Initiatives

Lorenzo Macaluso gave a presentation summarizing results of the fiscal year 2015 (FY15) Recycling Works in Massachusetts program and highlighting planned FY 16 program initiatives. This presentation is posted along with this meeting summary. Participants made several comments and suggestions, including:

- You should clarify the sites that show tons diverted by year to clarify that these are only the new additional tons diverted that year, or instead show this as a cumulative total.
- RecyclingWorks should coordinate with Mike Elliott at MassDEP, along with participants in the Construction and Demolition Materials Subcommittee on work related to C&D materials recycling and reuse.

Massachusetts 2012 Solid Waste and Recycling Data

John Fischer presented a summary of the Draft 2012 Solid Waste and Recycling Data. This presentation is posted along with this meeting summary.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is scheduled for January 28, 2016 at MassDEP's Boston office.